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CASE STUDY
Students Learn To Detect and Treat TB

Medical university students learn new TB treatment strategies.

Photo: Project HOPE

A USAID grantee introduces a WHO-recommended TB treatment and diagnostics approaches at the Kazakh National Medical University.

Challenge
About five hundred students with focus on lung diseases graduate each year from the Kazakh National Medical University in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Many of them find employment in dispensaries and primary health care institutions throughout the country and become responsible for diagnostics and treatment of different forms of tuberculosis. Unfortunately, their alma mater cannot always provide up-to-date knowledge in compliance with the international standards of TB treatment due to outdated teaching methods, scarce resources and lack of opportunities in attracting well-known educators in the field.

Initiative
USAID has been assisting medical educational institutions in Kazakhstan to ensure modern knowledge and skills dissemination in the country. Through its grantee Project HOPE, USAID prepared and conducted practical trainings on TB diagnostics in primary health care and TB treatment based on WHO standards for undergraduate and graduate students at the health department of the Kazakh National Medical University. In addition to these trainings, the university also committed to disseminate materials on interactive training methods and the new TB treatment strategy at the clinical departments as well, not limiting this information to the department of lung diseases.

The university has integrated the training modules provided by USAID and the Project HOPE team into the academic program. Project HOPE has composed practical policies on TB detection. Standard protocols on procedures for the execution of smear sputum collection, the diagnostic algorithm and DOT were provided to the department.

Results
The Rector of the Kazakh National Medical University has highly recognized the impact of the trainings for a new generation of young doctors in Kazakhstan. About 900 undergraduate and graduate students have already received the trainings at the university. These students will enter the primary health care system with updated knowledge of TB diagnostics and treatment.

Some 5,000 students will receive training based on these modules each year.